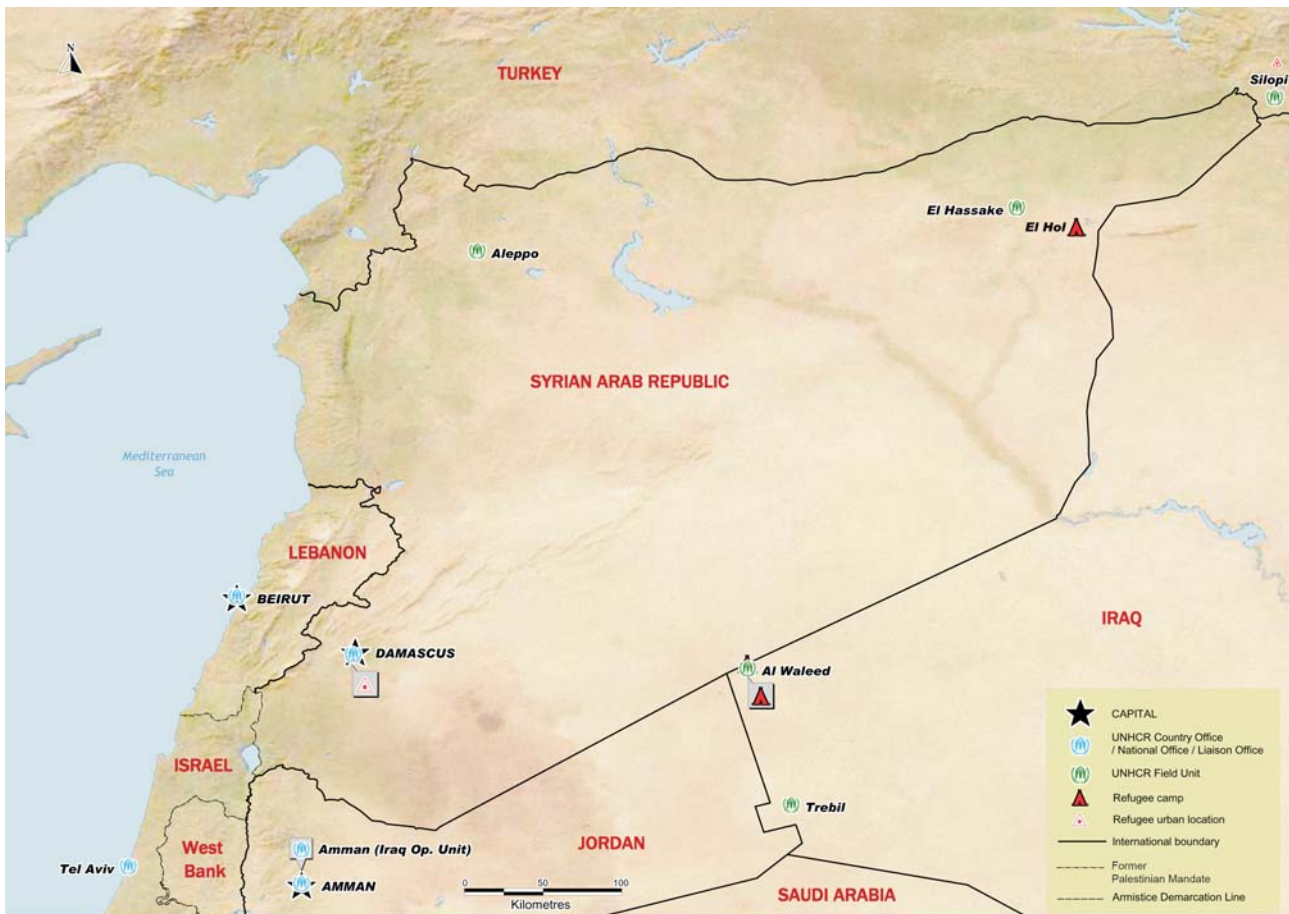


# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



## Operational highlights

- UNHCR worked with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) to maintain the country's favourable protection environment for refugees. A draft of the National Asylum Law was submitted to relevant ministries.
- The signing of the Cooperation Agreement between UNHCR and the Syrian Government was a major achievement in 2010. The accord provides UNHCR with a legal basis for its presence and activities in the country.
- Refugees gained greater access to asylum as UNHCR increased its presence at the country's borders. In 2010, UNHCR registered some 23,000 newly arrived refugees.

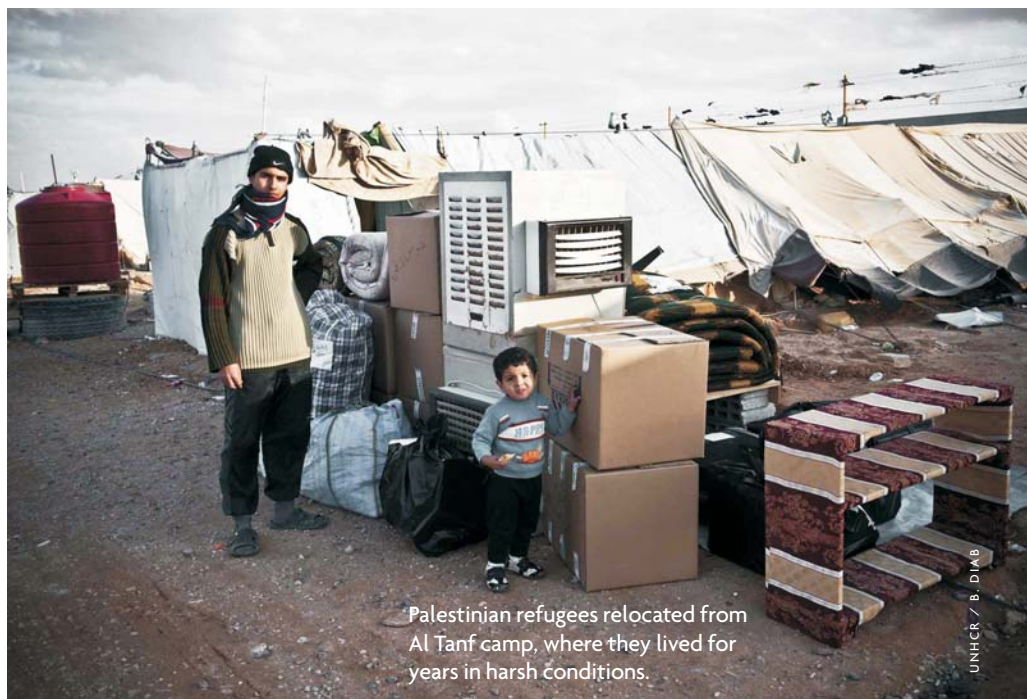
## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
<b>Refugees<sup>1</sup></b>	Iraq	1,000,000	135,200	47	37
	Somalia	2,800	2,800	62	52
	Afghanistan	1,600	1,600	47	49
	Sudan	500	500	44	49
	Various	600	600	47	38
<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	Iraq	600	600	46	36
	Afghanistan	500	500	47	43
	Sudan	400	400	38	46
	Somalia	340	340	61	43
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	130	130	39	28
	Various	420	420	46	39
<b>Stateless<sup>2</sup></b>	Stateless	300,000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,307,890</b>	<b>143,090</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Refugee figures for Iraqis are Government estimates. Demographic breakdown refers to registered refugees only.

<sup>2</sup> Figures are based on estimates from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

- A new agreement between UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour allowed refugees with specific needs access to national social programmes.
- An extensive choice of remedial classes, outreach to parents by education volunteers and the distribution of grants helped maintain the 2010 school enrolment figures at levels similar to those in the previous year.
- UNHCR provided people of concern with access to health care in cooperation with the national health authorities. A total of 204,000 medical interventions were made.
- Advocacy with the Syrian authorities saw the closure of the Al Tanf Camp between Syria and Iraq, and permission for its residents to enter the country.



Palestinian refugees relocated from Al Tanf camp, where they lived for years in harsh conditions.

UNHCR / B. DIAB

### | Working environment |

Syria continues to host a large number of refugees and others displaced from Iraq. In addition, it hosts Palestinians who fled Iraq, and some 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries.

The lack of significant improvements in the security situation in Iraq following elections appears to have propelled the arrival in Syria of more Iraqis than UNHCR had originally foreseen in 2010.

### | Achievements and impact |

#### • Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's main objective was to maintain and expand the protection space in Syria by helping refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their basic needs.

#### Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR lobbied for free access to the territory for people seeking protection. The flow of Iraqis seeking asylum continued unabated. UNHCR registered more than 23,000 Iraqi refugees in 2010.

#### Fair protection processes

- There was greater recognition accorded to the certificate provided by UNHCR to all refugees. It was considered grounds for granting or renewing residency in a number of cases.
- There were 161,000 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in the country at the beginning of 2010. That number increased with new arrivals during the course of the year. UNHCR renewed the certificates and updated the files of some 45,000 individuals.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR observed a rise in cases of violence in the home, survival sex, and forced and early marriages. The increase in incidents of sexual and gender-based violence is possibly linked to the difficult living conditions of refugees in Syria. UNHCR assessed the cases of more than 900 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in 2010, the majority of whom were referred to relevant support services. Nearly 150 women and their children were hosted in a UNHCR-funded safe house.
- More than 1,000 refugees received training in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, and 120 women and adolescents participated in skills training activities. The 100 refugee women and girls in detention were provided with legal assistance. Vocational and skills training was provided to 300 women and girls at risk.
- Cooperation with the Syrian Women's Union was expanded to offer legal assistance to survivors of sexual violence. UNHCR and IOM worked together to aid implementation of the newly enacted anti-trafficking law.

### Basic needs and services

- Some 30,000 families (more than 108,000 individuals) received food assistance in 2010. An electronic voucher system was implemented and by the end of the year, 40 per cent of Iraqi recipients of food assistance were using it.
- UNHCR assisted some 17,300 families (over 51,500 individuals) with monthly financial assistance, 16,000 of whom were people with specific needs.
- A total of 204,000 individuals benefited from comprehensive primary health care. The implementation of a flat-rate system for such care was a major achievement. Health outreach volunteers served as links between beneficiaries, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and public hospitals.

- A referral system helped 16,400 refugees to benefit from secondary and specialized health care through public hospitals.
- Education activities focused on increasing enrolments in primary and secondary schools. In 2009, 39 per cent of school-aged Iraqi children did not attend school. In 2010, this rate dropped to 30 per cent. Remedial classes and extracurricular activities attracted a more-than-expected 8,200 beneficiaries.
- With regard to higher education, 80 scholarships were provided to first-year university students. In total, 270 refugees were studying on UNHCR scholarships during the 2010-2011 academic year. More than 200 Syrian teachers were trained to conduct remedial vocational classes. Other improvements were the refurbishing of 11 schools and the provision of equipment for 15 institutions.

### Community participation and self-management

- The outreach refugee volunteers' programme had 160 volunteers, including 66 who provided specialized services. The volunteers handled over 72,000 cases and made over 15,000 home visits.
- UNHCR and its partners worked to improve self-reliance through vocational training. More than 2,000 participants completed three-month courses in sewing, hair-dressing, handicrafts and cooking. More than 200 students benefited from advanced training on plumbing, welding, electricity and secretarial work. A training-of-trainers was organized for refugees and social workers on microfinance projects. Small grants were given to initiate income generation projects.
- Some 30,000 people received counselling from UNHCR social workers. Most were women at risk, individuals with serious medical conditions, people with disabilities, older people, psychosocial support cases and unaccompanied minors.

### Durable solutions

- The 2010 resettlement referral target was approximately 16,500 people. Nearly 13,700 people were submitted for resettlement, while 6,800 people departed. In 2010, almost 200 individuals benefited from UNHCR assistance for voluntary repatriation.

### External relations

- UNHCR issued two press releases each month. Various other documents, such as "Operation Updates" and mass information booklets were also disseminated.

### Logistics and operations support

- UNHCR procured necessary relief items both internationally and through local providers. Effective distribution systems were put in place in coordination with partners.

### | Constraints |

The current lack of a legal framework for asylum creates a challenging environment for refugee protection. UNHCR is

not authorized to monitor all border points and lacks access to some detention centres, which limits interventions.

As few NGOs are permitted to operate in Syria, UNHCR is obliged to engage in direct implementation, particularly with regard to registration, vulnerability assessment and verification, food and non-food distribution and resettlement.

### | Financial information |

UNHCR's budget in Syria was substantially increased to fill the growing needs of refugees. While the total number of Iraqi refugees declined, the vulnerabilities and needs of those who remained increased. Although the comprehensive needs identified for activities in Syria in 2010 totalled USD 165.4 million, only USD 90.1 million was available. As a result, UNHCR was unable to provide all refugees in need with monthly financial assistance or to give extended medical care to new arrivals.

### | Organization and implementation |

UNHCR has four offices in the Syrian Arab Republic: Damascus, Douma, Aleppo, Hassakeh.

As al Hol Camp was not closed in 2010 as planned, UNHCR remained in Aleppo and Hassakah. In Damascus, UNHCR moved more refugee services to the registration and food distribution centre in order to consolidate services during initial registration.

### | UNHCR's presence in 2010 |

□ Number of offices	<b>4</b>
□ Total staff	<b>439</b>
International	27
National	143
JPOs	1
UNVs	14
Other	254

### | Working with others |

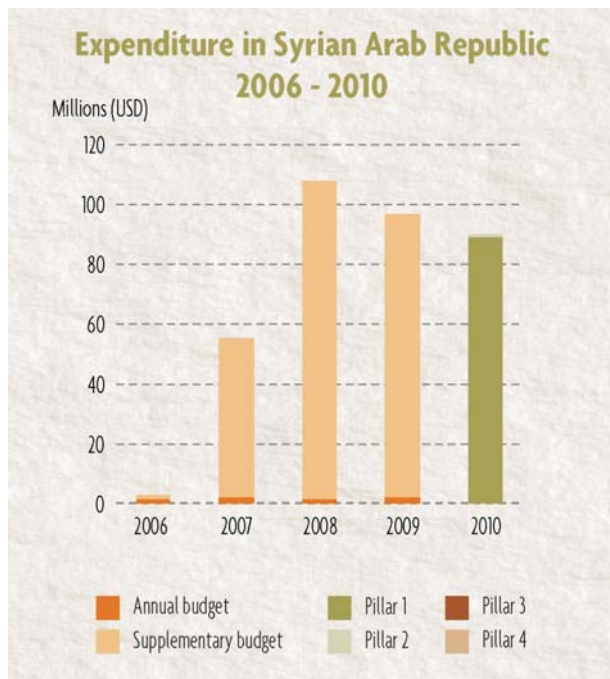
UNHCR continued to lead inter-agency coordination efforts and chaired or co-chaired three of the five main working groups, as set out in the 2010 Regional Response Plan for Iraqi Refugees.

### | Overall assessment |

UNHCR maintained the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers through cooperation with the Syrian authorities, and improved relations with the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Immigration and the new Counter-Trafficking Directorate. It also gained more access to the refugees in detention centres, thereby helping to avert deportations.

More emphasis was put on identifying and assisting particularly vulnerable groups. Some progress was achieved because of the increased involvement of the Syrian Women's Union and the UNHCR-supported refugee outreach volunteers who expanded community mobilization.

The education assistance programme helped maintain school enrolment in 2010 and also maintained a small number of university grants.



Most health needs continued to be met, but funding shortfalls meant that tertiary care was limited. Although the demand for mental-health and psychosocial support continued to exceed available services, the UNHCR-led inter-agency initiative to build national capacity in this sector is addressing this gap.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Ministries of Education, Health, and Higher Education; Governorate of Hassakah
<b>NGOs:</b>	DRC, <i>Première Urgence</i> , <i>Action contre la Faim</i> (Spain), IRC, GOPA, Caritas Syria, Caritas Austria
<b>Others:</b>	Syrian Arab Red Crescent, IFRC, Syrian Women's Union, Evangelical Church
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>NGOs:</b>	IMC, ICMC, HELP, CRS, <i>Enfants du Monde</i> , IECD, Turkish Blue Crescent, <i>Médecins du Monde</i> , <i>Ricerca e Cooperazione</i> , <i>Terre des Hommes</i> Italy, <i>Terre des Hommes</i> Syria, Mercy Corps, Islamic Relief France
<b>Others:</b>	IFRC, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, WFP, WHO

## Budget, income and expenditure in Syrian Arab Republic | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>164,873,971</b>	<b>525,000</b>	<b>165,398,971</b>
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	27,381,464	0	27,381,464
Other funds available	62,245,499	491,135	62,736,634
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>89,626,962</b>	<b>491,135</b>	<b>90,118,098</b>

### EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

#### Favourable protection environment

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	Total
International and regional instruments	12,711	15,246	27,957
National legal framework	644,178	24,844	669,022
National administrative framework	59,231	31,906	91,137
National and regional migration policy	344,684	0	344,684
Prevention of statelessness	0	29,370	29,370
Co-operation with partners	72,759	0	72,759
National development policies	0	19,483	19,483
Access to territory	59,072	0	59,072
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	91,855	0	91,855
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,284,490</b>	<b>120,849</b>	<b>1,405,339</b>

#### Fair protection processes and documentation

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	Total
Registration and profiling	2,591,220	0	2,591,220
Access to asylum procedures	80,177	0	80,177
Fair and efficient status determination	617,036	0	617,036
Family reunification	74,581	0	74,581
Individual documentation	137,036	0	137,036
Civil status documentation	42,029	67,457	109,486
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,542,078</b>	<b>67,457</b>	<b>3,609,536</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Gender-based violence	1,195,759	0	1,195,759
Protection of children	187,335	0	187,335
Non-arbitrary detention	118,585	0	118,585
Access to legal remedies	209,648	0	209,648
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,711,327</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,711,327</b>
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Food security	7,999,942	0	7,999,942
Water	37,615	0	37,615
Shelter and other infrastructure	210,297	0	210,297
Basic domestic and hygiene items	34,497,863	0	34,497,863
Primary health care	14,030,600	0	14,030,600
Education	5,173,180	0	5,173,180
Sanitation services	46,003	0	46,003
Services for groups with specific needs	1,533,511	0	1,533,511
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>63,529,010</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,529,010</b>
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	272,866	0	272,866
Community self-management and equal representation	1,490,476	0	1,490,476
Self-reliance and livelihoods	604,996	0	604,996
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,368,338</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,368,338</b>
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	106,059	0	106,059
Voluntary return	181,997	0	181,997
Resettlement	2,349,111	0	2,349,111
Local integration support	66,449	0	66,449
Reduction of statelessness	0	114,259	114,259
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,703,616</b>	<b>114,259</b>	<b>2,817,875</b>
<i>External relations</i>			
Donor relations	95,230	0	95,230
Resource mobilisation	17,702	0	17,702
Partnership	38,550	55,861	94,412
Public information	170,419	0	170,419
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>321,902</b>	<b>55,861</b>	<b>377,763</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Supply chain and logistics	999,624	0	999,624
Programme management, coordination and support	2,859,930	132,709	2,992,639
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,859,555</b>	<b>132,709</b>	<b>3,992,263</b>
Instalments to implementing partners	10,244,439	0	10,244,439
Other objectives	62,207	0	62,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,626,962</b>	<b>491,135</b>	<b>90,118,098</b>

<sup>1</sup> Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.